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Recreation Commission Minutes 06/10/2009

Park and Recreation Commission

Minutes

Wednesday, June 10, 2009

Approved

The Park and Recreation Commission came to order at 6:45 PM on the first floor of the Arlington Senior Center on Wednesday, May 10, 2009.

Members in attendance included: Leslie Mayer, Jen Rothenberg, Nancy Campbell and Don Vitters. Also in attendance was Director of Recreation Joseph Connelly.

Members of the public included: Deb Goldsmith, Rosemary Burke and Richard Stavros.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Mayer amended the minutes with some minor changes. Ms. Rothenberg motioned to approve the minutes of May 20, 2009 as amended, seconded by Mr. Vitters and approved 3-0-1 with Ms. Campbell abstaining.

Rowing Program Concern Review

Ms. Mayer and Mr. Connelly reviewed some concerns that have been shared with the Commission regarding the rowing program including: use of gas motors, speed of motors, use of bullhorn, awareness of the program in general and proximity of the boats to the shoreline.

Mr. Connelly asked if electric motors could be substituted for gas motors. Mr. Stavros stated that the electric motors could not keep up with the rowboats. Mr. Stavros stated that the launches were for safety only and it was extremely important that they could keep up with the boats.

The Commission and Mr. Stavros reviewed the length of program time stating that weekdays were typically 3:30 pm – 6 pm and the weekends were 9 am – 12 noon. Ms. Mayer stated that the time might have to be adjusted to keep it consistent with the other varsity sports (5:30 pm). Ms. Burke was concerned that this was too restrictive.

Mr. Stavros reviewed the success of the program including having seventy student rowers and a very successful year of competition. Mr. Stavros did state that the program might be expanding next year. The Commission discussed how the expansion would occur. Mr. Stavros stated that it might be 100 students and an additional launch and two more rowboats. The Commission was concerned with the expansion of the program and would like to discuss this with Mr. Stavros prior to a final decision on expansion. Any expansion would require Commission approval.

Mr. Connelly stated that although the program received some neighborhood feedback that was negative, the program also received plenty of positive feedback as well. Mr. Connelly stated that it was important that the program be aware of the concerns and do its best to make adjustments to insure continued success. Ms. Mayer and Ms. Rothenberg agreed.

The Commission asked Mr. Connelly to post the rowing times for the summer at Spy Pond.

Special Event Approvals - All events were approved by unanimous vote.

Friends of Robbins Farm Date Change for Red Sox Night- 9/26 to 9/12

The Commission discussed the change as well as allowing an additional portable bathroom to remain overnight for their events. The Commission agreed to allowing it on a trial basis.

Arlington Center for the Arts – Friends of Robbins and Menotomy Rocks – 7/19/2009

The Commission discussed this annual event and the necessary conditions involved. This year Robbins Farm will host the event, which alternates annually between Robbins Farm and Menotomy Rocks Park. The Commission discussed the need for a police detail and an additional portable restroom if requested.

Ms. Rothenberg motioned to approve both special permits with the conditions including:

Friends of Robbins Farm – Second portable restroom is on trial basis only

ACOA Event July 19th – Police Detail is required, second portable restroom must be supplied and paid for by ACOA and removed the next working day, extra trash cans are available for the event.

Motion was seconded by Ms. Campbell and approved 4-0.

Mr. Connelly left the meeting for Town Meeting at 8:05 pm.

Rink and Recreation Update

Rink – No updates

Recreation – No updates

Capital Update

Buzzell Field - Project is complete.

Thorndike Parking – Ms. Mayer updated the Commission on the results of the Conservation Commission hearing. On 5/21, the

ConComm closed the hearing and approved the parking renovation project subject to requirements for an environmental monitor/inspector (Town engineer acceptable) to check on project during construction; copy of actual construction documents to be given to ConComm; drainage pipe in center of lot should be solid (not perforated); and verify that “Shamrock inkberry” and “blue mist fothergilla” are native plants.

Summer Street Playground – The project is currently out to bid for design.

Summer Street Fencing and Pavement Removal – Work to remove these items has not been started. Ms. Mayer spoke with Mr.

Bean and learned that turnover of the Summer St. road project is not imminent (could be a year or more). He asked if the Commission wanted him to pursue this request with the Mass. Highway Dept. and was requested to do so. Follow-up on the status is needed.

Arlington Sports Center Complex Study – Sasaki and Associates is preparing a draft master plan of the multiple options and interdependences that have been discussed. The Commission will have an opportunity to review and provide input.

Spy Pond Playground – Funding was approved to resolve the sand wasp problem that has plagued the playground for several years. All sand must be removed and replaced with appropriate safety surfacing. Correspondence was received from Agnes Bayer-Kiss about several other issues at the Spy Pond Park playground (Use of pins on kiosk; signs prohibiting dogs; signs

prohibiting the consumption of food in playground). The commissioners discussed the issues and determined that the kiosk would be removed from within the playground enclosure when the surfacing is replaced. The remaining items are not prohibited in the playground area.

Park Policies

Gifts for Park Donations - A draft of a new policy was handed out for the Commissioners to review and provide input. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

Storage Shed Policy – Still awaiting review.

Committee Updates

Comfort Facility and Friends of Parks - The Commission will review the plan for a fall pilot at next month's meeting. All locations are to be reviewed.

Green Dog Committee – No report

Correspondence

Rec'd e-mail from Agnes Bayer-Kiss regarding Spy Pond Playground – discussed above

Other

Ms. Rothenberg motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Vitters and approved 3-0. Meeting adjourned at 9:25 PM.

Respectively Submitted:

Joseph Connelly, Director of Recreation